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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Thüringsche Kugellagerfabrik

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1. The Thüringische Kugellagerfabrik at Zella-Melis produced 8,222,000 balls for ball bearings in August 1953. This was about 150,000 under the plan. Production proceeds very irregularly because deliveries of material are not received regularly, and besides the automatic machines are old and badly worn out through overuse. For this reason the balls often leave a good deal to be desired in precision. About 12 percent of the output is of little use.
2. The plant makes deliveries to the Deutsche Kugellagerfabrik Böhlitz-Ehrenberg, the Kugellagerwerk Erkner at Berlin, and direct to the Soviet Union. The supply of material comes chiefly from Poland, the Soviet Union, and SAG plants in the Soviet Zone. Poland supplies very good material; that from the SAG plants is often of poor quality. The SAG Oskar Kunsch in Rasberg and Silbitz delivers steel that is very brittle and often causes damage to the machines.
3. Ring-groove, sheave-groove and rocker bearings are manufactured, of the types EL, R, and E. The sheave-groove bearings are of the types 51000-51200. The finished bearings are delivered to automotive plants in the Soviet Zone, principally the IFA Schlepperwerk at Nordhausen and EMW Eisenach. For Poland and the Soviet Union only heavy bearings are delivered, which get special care in production. Clearing is conducted principally through the Garantie-und Kreditbank. This bank has no concern with deliveries to VEB plants. No more credits to these plants have been allowed for three months. In the month of August about 40,000 bearings were delivered as reparations.

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